

ABSTRACT

A method for implementing security management in a storage area network by controlling access to network resources. Initially, a resource provider 5 communicates with potential resource users, such as host computers, servers, and workstations, to allow the users to discover the resources available on the storage area network. Resource users that have not previously logged in to a particular resource supply 10 identification information to the resource provider, which places the information in a 'not yet approved entity' table. The 'not yet approved entity' table is made available to a management station. An administrator, using the management station, then 15 determines whether to authorize use of resources. If access to the requested resource is allowed, the resource user identification information is stored in an 'approved entity' table. A login is then allowed by the resource user to the selected resource. Once a 20 resource user has initially logged in, connection information is maintained in the 'approved entity' table facilitating subsequent log-in attempts by the resource user.